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COMMERCIAL CARRIER JOURNAL

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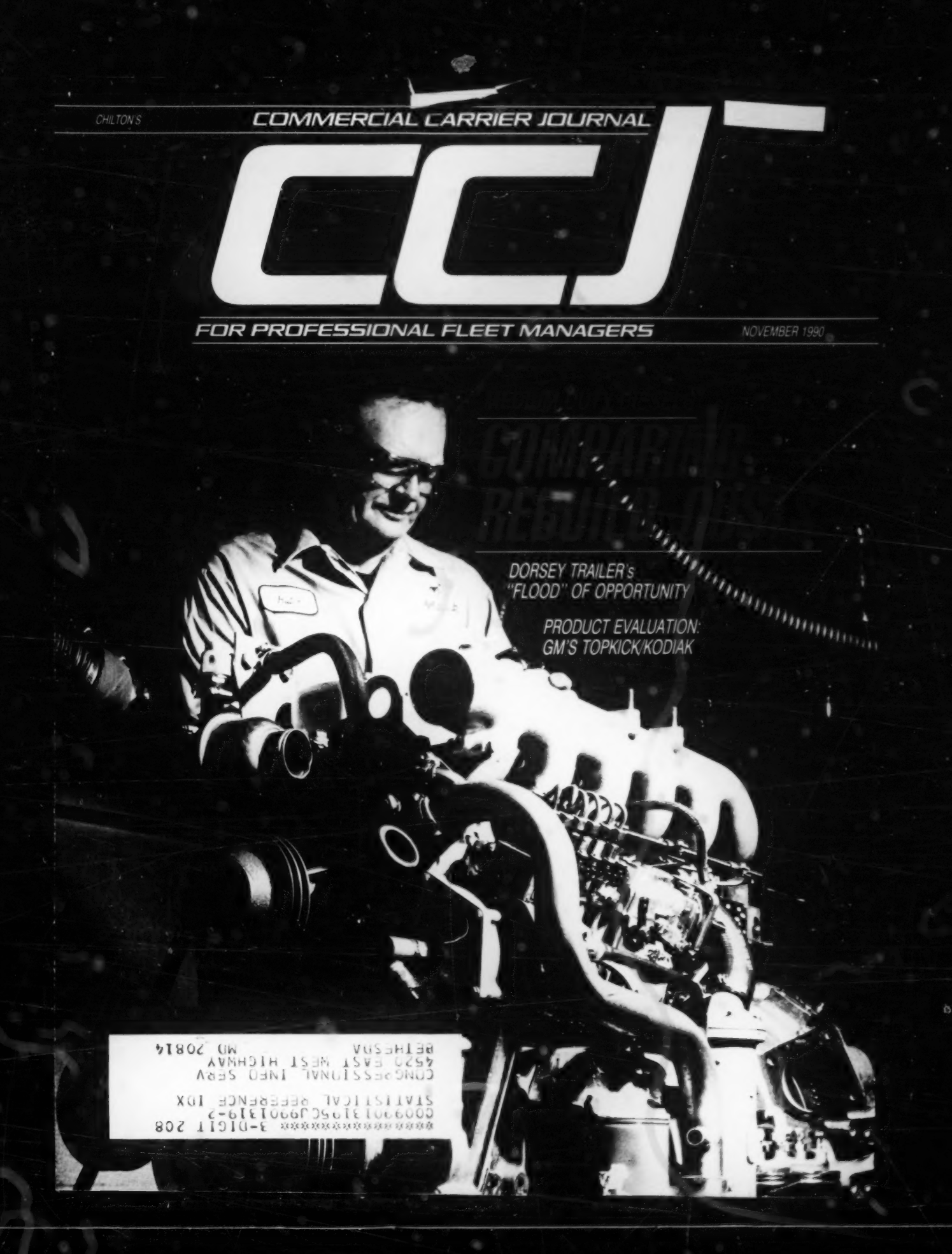
FOR PROFESSIONAL FLEET MANAGERS

NOVEMBER 1990



DORSEY TRAILER's "FLOOD" OF OPPORTUNITY

PRODUCT EVALUATION: GM'S TOPKICK/KODIAK

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IN THE NEXT ISSUE

A special report covers one of trucking's most pressing problems: ways fleet managers can reduce driver turnover and build a professional team of committed drivers. Methods to keep, find and retrain quality drivers are discussed by managers of some of the nation's largest fleets.

Government leaders, equipment manufacturers, truck driver training school officials, transportation research specialists, consultants, insurance company executives and leaders of the Professional Truck Drivers Institute of America also contributed.

The result is a revealing look at how management's involvement with drivers can effectively combat truck driver shortages and unprofessionalism behind the wheel. □

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FHWA: 2% of drivers test positive

Hampton, Va.: Slightly more than 2% of the drivers who participated in a recent Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) survey of fleets that have a drug screening program, tested positive, according to Richard Rippert.

Rippert, a former medical driver qualification specialist for FHWA, is now national compliance director and assistant sales director of Pembroke Occupational Health of Richmond, Va. Pembroke is a third party marketer of specimen collection, medical review officer (MRO) and laboratory services.

He presented the results of the FHWA survey of 200 of the 3,500 carriers that came under the federal testing mandate Dec. 21, 1989, at the Virginia Trucking Association's annual Fall Safety Conference held here in October.

Proportions of the drugs discovered, according to the surveyed fleets, were: marijuana, 65%; cocaine, 24%; opiates (e.g., morphine and codiene), 7%; amphetamines ("speed"), 2%; and Phencyclidine (PCP or "angel dust"), 1%.

A breakdown of the drug testing survey results Rippert presented includes: □

	Number Tested	Number Positive	Percent Positive
Pre-employment	22,963	598	2.6%
Periodic	10,788	95	1.0%
Reasonable Cause	155	24	15.5%
Totals	**33,906**	**717***	**2.1%**

*—Includes more than one illicit drug found.

Shippers, teamsters fight undercharge bill

Strong opposition by the Teamsters Union and a coalition of bankrupt shippers may have killed a congressional solution to the problem of undercharges by bankrupt carriers.

The Teamsters Union opposes lower negotiated rates believing it will threaten pension plan contributions and future jobs.

Shippers claim they paid the lower negotiated rates in good faith and that the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) supported the practice. Therefore, they shouldn't be forced to pay more.

However, auditors for bankrupt carriers believe the $100 million or so at stake should go to the bankrupt carriers' debtors.

H.R. 3243 was introduced as emergency legislation to uphold the ICC's primary jurisdiction in determining the lawfulness of undercharge claims. The bill provides that, when additional charges are sought by collection agencies, the ICC may find their collection to be an unreasonable practice.

This relief also applies to pending overcharge and undercharge cases. □

Carrier news

J.B. Hunt Transport Services, Lowell, Ark., purchased the assets of Bulldog Trucking of Carnesville, Ga. J.B. Hunt also created a new flatbed division, and raised experienced drivers pay from 27¢ to 33¢ per mile.

Preston Corp., Preston, Md., is closing two subsidiaries, Pioneer Transportation Systems, a general freight carrier in Hurlock, Md., and Reeves Transportation Co., a carpet hauler, in Calhoun, Ga. A new subsidiary, CSI Transportation and Distribution, will operate out of the Reeves' terminals transporting carpet from mills in the southeast to the west.

Ryder Systems, Miami, Fla., sold Ryder Temperature Controlled Carriage, Nashville, Tenn., to an investor group. Two of the investors are Roger Blume, former CEO of Chemical Leaman Tank Lines, Exton, Pa., and Steven George, former owner of Tennessee Cartage which became Ryder Temperature Controlled Carriage in 1984 when it was purchased by Ryder.

Direct Transit, Sioux City, Iowa, acquired the operating authority and customer list of Atlantic Contract Carriers Corp. (ACC), Taylor, Pa. The purchase includes authority to serve Procter & Gamble Co.

Lyons Transportation Lines, Erie, Pa., a less-than-truckload carrier, filed for bankruptcy under provision of Chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code. □

Six more labs certified for drug testing

Six laboratories have been added to the list of labs certified to conduct drug testing by the National Institute of Drug Abuse of the Department of Health and Human Services. (See CCJ, August 1990, page 21, for a complete list of the labs formerly certified by NIDA.) They are:

Alpha Medical Laboratory, 405 Alderson St., Schofield, Wisc. 54476, 800-627-8200; CBC Clinilab, 140 E Ryan Rd., Oak Creek, Wisc. 53154, 800-365-3840 (formerly Chem-Bio Corp.); Clinical Pathology Facility, Inc., 711 Bingham St., Pittsburgh, Pa. 15203, 412-488-6917; Med-Chek Laboratories, Inc., 4900 Perry Highway, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15229, 412-931-7200; Roche Biomedical Laboratories, Inc., 1 Roche Dr., Raritan, N.J. 08869, 800-631-5250; Roche Biomedical Laboratories, Inc., 1120 Stateline Rd., Southaven, Miss. 38671, 601-342-1286.

To be certified, a laboratory must undergo three rounds of performance testing, plus an on-site inspection. □